



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

July 14, 2014

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

### 2014 FOURTH OF JULY 24-HOUR ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes a preliminary summary of firework-related emergency incidents, property loss, and the number of injuries that occurred on July 4, 2014. Also included is a summary of the community outreach efforts to mitigate the anticipated increase in emergency activity during the 2014 Fourth of July holiday.

### FIREWORK-RELATED EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The following firework-related emergency activity took place during the 24-hour period that began at 8:00 a.m. on July 4, 2014 and concluded at 8:00 a.m. on July 5, 2014. Below is a comparison to the data collected during the Fourth of July 24-hour period for the year 2013.

Number of Incidents	2013	2014
Structure Fires	0	2
Miscellaneous Fires	4	4
Grass/Brush Fires	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

Types of Fireworks	2013	2014
Illegal (ILL)	2	6
Undetermined (UND)	4	1
Safe and Sane (SAS)	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

Dollar/Average Loss/Injuries	2013	2014
Structures/Contents	\$0	\$50,000.00
Miscellaneous Property	\$10,700.00	\$0
Grass/Brush	8.63 Acres	1.1 Acres
Injuries (Civilian)	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,700.00</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY

CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE  
EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLENDALE  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK  
INDUSTRY  
INGLEWOOD  
IRWINDALE  
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER  
LAWNDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD

MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA

POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMEAD  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

During the 24-hour reporting period, the Department's Fire Command and Control Facility (FCCF) received 2,016 calls, of which 1,182 required resources to be dispatched. The other calls were duplicate calls, non-injury calls, questions regarding illegal fireworks, and questions regarding cities allowing safe and sane fireworks. The call volume increased in 2014 as compared to 2013. Last year, FCCF received 1,966 calls, of which 1,122 calls required resources to be dispatched.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2014:

- Conducted the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest" with the theme of *Visit a Local Professional Fireworks Show*. All elementary schools within the County were invited to participate and over 500 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 26, 2014, to announce and award prizes to the winners of the "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest." The public was also encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show. Representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Grossman Burn Center, and the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department were in attendance. The City of Los Angeles Police Department was also on hand to discuss the dangers of both legal and illegal fireworks.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations regarding the potential dangers of fireworks.
- Placed in operation the Professional Fireworks Show Directory Hotline at (888) 654-FIRE to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- The Public Affairs Unit posted public safety information and videos on the website at [www.fire.lacounty.gov](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov) to emphasize the cities that allowed "safe and sane" fireworks as well as the cities not permitting fireworks. The website included a list of all professional fireworks shows in the County and advised that fireworks are not permitted in unincorporated County areas. A link to the [www.safejuly4th.org](http://www.safejuly4th.org) website was provided in this section.
- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Reviewed and approved the permits and provided fire safety officer oversight for 44 public fireworks displays.
- Staffed the FCCF with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.
- Partnered with law enforcement agencies throughout the County. An estimated 20,000 copies of flyers and posters were printed for all County fire stations to promote a safe and sane Fourth of July holiday.



## CONCLUSION

The reported fires caused by fireworks were a result of six (6) illegal fireworks, one (1) undetermined firework, and zero (0) safe and sane fireworks, a decrease by one (1) from the previous year. The dollar loss increased from \$10,700 in 2013 to \$50,000 in 2014. There were two (2) civilian reported injuries caused by fireworks this year.

The Department will be compiling a more comprehensive report that covers a 30-day reporting period from June 17, 2014 to July 17, 2014. This 30-day report is a more accurate reflection of actual trends in firework-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report. The 30-day report will be submitted in August 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180 or your staff may contact Assistant Fire Chief Phil Cocker, Fire Prevention Division, at (323) 890-4144.

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